

South Africa

Despite the end of apartheid in 1994, when South Africa held its first democratic elections, many South African women and youth continue to face social and health barriers to becoming full participants in the development of their communities. Rates of domestic violence and sexual assault are high. Almost 19 percent of South Africans have HIV or AIDS.



Against this background, CEDPA has worked in South Africa since 1995 through partnerships with women and youth in education, health and legal areas—working together to build a stronger, healthier South Africa. With HIV infection rates highest among young adults, and more than half of South Africa’s population under the age of 25, a particular focus for CEDPA has been empowering youth with education and knowledge to fight AIDS.

Today, CEDPA leads the community-based **Towards a Better Future: Improving Educational and Health Outcomes for Young Girls in Southern Africa**. This non-formal education pilot program in southern Africa has been adapted from CEDPA’s **Choose a Future!** program, which has been implemented worldwide.

Through local partners, the program will reach 2,000 adolescent girls in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland through an integrated framework of life skills education. It will build self esteem in young people through supportive peer relationships, skills in decision-making, problem-solving and negotiating, and information to support personal health and well-being.

CEDPA’s program also builds family and community support for girls’ education. It is implemented and designed hand-in-hand with local partners, building the capacity of communities to meet the educational challenge of their next generation of leaders.



In addition to country programming, CEDPA’s worldwide training programs have graduated over 150 South African women and men. These leaders are now working in local, national and international organizations and government agencies to advocate for and promote women’s rights and youth development.

Contact Information

CEDPA/South Africa
Suite 2, Sanlam Gables
1209 Schoeman Street
C/O Schoeman and Duncan Streets
Hatfield, Pretoria
South Africa
Tel: +27 12 430 2926/7
Fax: +27 12 430 2925

Director, Towards a Better Future project
Constance Matatji